

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING/HCOLLUMS:AM

APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ

H:NCLEDSKY

EUR:GSVEST

D:MBARNES

S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

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O P 282317Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU

SUBJECT: HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO

REF: ANKARA 5481

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM P.M. ECEVIT, CALLED ON DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR NIMETZ JULY 28 TO INDICATE THAT GOT VERY MUCH HOPES THAT IN ANY HOUSE AMENDMENT WHICH MAY BE PROPOSED, TWO FEATURES OF BYRD/MCGOVERN AMENDMENT ADOPTED BY SENATE JULY 25 WOULD BE INCLUDED.

PARTICULAR POINTS OF CONCERN TO ECEVIT ARE THOSE WHICH IN HIS JULY 26 STATEMENT HE COMMENDED AS "REALISTIC AND POSITIVE", VIZ. A) THAT GREECE HAS ROLE TO PLAY WITH

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RESPECT TO CYPRUS PROBLEM; AND B) IMPORTANCE OF RESUMING INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON BASIS FEBRUARY 1977 DENKTASH-MAKARIOS GUIDELINES.

2. ACTING SECRETARY HAD INFORMED ESENBEL LATE JULY 27 THAT MAJORITY LEADER WRIGHT AND MEMBERS OF HIRC WERE WORKING ON AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD DIFFER FROM BYRD/MCGOVERN

AMENDMENT, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE SHORTER AND SIMPLER BUT WHICH WOULD ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE SOME OF SAME OBJECTIVES. ACTING SECRETARY ALSO STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND SECRETARY WOULD CONTINUE MAKING STRONG

EFFORT WITH HOUSE MEMBERS PRIOR ANTICIPATED VOTE ON AUGUST 1.

3. ESENBEL RECALLED TO NIMETZ THAT GOT HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS BYRD/MCGOVERN AMENDMENT (STATE 186954; ANKARA 5357) AND WAS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THESE FEATURES; BUT HE INDICATED THAT GOT COULD LIVE WITH BILL ADOPTED BY SENATE. ESENBEL SAID THAT GOT WOULD PREFER A HOUSE DECISION SIMPLY REPEALING THE EMBARGO. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED, IF THIS WERE NOT POSSIBLE IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT THE LANGUAGE ON TWO POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE BE RETAINED IN ANY BILL ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE. HE THEN READ FROM HIS INSTRUCTIONS, STRESSING THAT ANY ADJUSTMENTS IN THE HOUSE SHOULD NOT BE AT THE COST OF ELIMINATING THOSE POINTS. OTHERWISE, ESENBEL SAID: "WE WILL BE AT A LOSS TO SHAPE TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION AND WILL FAIL TO CREATE THE NECESSARY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN TURKEY. THIS IN TURN WOULD LIMIT US IN REVIVING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND REACTIVATING COOPERATION ON DEFENSE MATTERS."

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4. IN RESPONSE, NIMETZ STRESSED THAT THE IMPORTANT POINT WE HOPED TURKS WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE PUBLICLY WAS THAT THE EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED. HE POINTED OUT THAT WHATEVER ACTION THE HOUSE TAKES THE BILL WOULD THEN GO TO A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE FOR RESOLUTION OF ANY DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE. NIMETZ SAID HE HAD BEEN SHOWN BRIEFLY A DRAFT OF THE AMENDMENT LANGUAGE BEING CONSIDERED IN THE HOUSE AND THAT, IN HIS OPINION, IT WAS BETTER FROM THE TURKISH POINT OF VIEW THAN THE BYRD AMENDMENT ADOPTED BY THE SENATE. HE SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT THE DRAFT HE HAD SEEN RETAINED THE LANGUAGE REFERRING TO POLICY TOWARD ALL THREE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT IN A POSITION TO KNOW WHAT WILL COME OUT OF THE HOUSE OR CONFERENCE. VANCE

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